



California to apologize for internment of Japanese Americans

By CUNETY DIL

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)

— Les Ouchida was born an American just outside California's capital city, but his citizenship mattered little after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States declared war. Based solely on their Japanese ancestry, the 5-year-old and his family were taken from their home in 1942 and imprisoned far away in Arkansas.

They were among 120,000 Japanese Americans held at 10 internment camps during World War II, their only fault being "we had the wrong last names and wrong faces," said Ouchida, now 82 and living a short drive from where he grew up and was taken as a boy due to fear that Japanese Americans would side with Japan in the war.

Continued on next page



In this photo taken Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, Les Ouchida poses at the permanent exhibit titled "UpRooted Japanese Americans in World War II" at the California Museum in Sacramento, Calif.

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Continued from front

On Thursday, California's Legislature is expected to approve a resolution offering an apology to Ouchida and other internment victims for the state's role in aiding the U.S. government's policy and condemning actions that helped fan anti-Japanese discrimination.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order No. 9066 establishing the camps was signed on Feb. 19, 1942, and 2/19 now is marked by Japanese Americans as a Day of Remembrance.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi was born in Japan and is one of the roughly 430,000 people of Japanese descent living in California, the largest population of any state. The Democrat who represents Manhattan Beach and other beach communities near Los Angeles introduced the resolution.

"We like to talk a lot about how we lead the nation by example," he said. "Unfortunately, in this case, California led the racist anti-Japanese American movement."

A congressional commission in 1983 concluded that the detentions were a re-

sult of "racial prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership." Five years later, the U.S. government formally apologized and paid \$20,000 in reparations to each victim.

The money didn't come close to replacing what was lost. Ouchida says his father owned a profitable delivery business with 20 trucks.

He never fully recovered from losing his business and died early.

The California resolution doesn't come with any compensation. It targets the actions of the California Legislature at the time for supporting the internments. Two camps were located in the state — Manzanar on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada in central California and Tule Lake near the Oregon state line, the largest of all the camps.

"I want the California Legislature to officially acknowledge and apologize while these camp survivors are still alive," Muratsuchi said.

He said anti-Japanese sentiment began in California as early as 1913, when the state passed the California Alien Land Law, targeting Japanese farmers who some in California's massive agricultural indus-

try perceived as a threat. Seven years later the state barred anyone with Japanese ancestry from buying farmland.

The internment of Ouchida, his older brother and parents began in Fresno, California. Three months later they were sent to Jerome, Arkansas, where they stayed for most of the war. Given their young ages at the time, many living victims such as Ouchida don't remember much of life in the camps. But he does recall straw-filled mattresses and little privacy.

Communal bathrooms had rows of toilets with no barriers between users. "They put a bag over their heads when they went to the bathroom" for privacy, said Ouchida, who teaches about the internments at the California Museum in Sacramento.

Before the last camp was closed in 1946, Ouchida's family was shipped to a facility in Arizona. When the family was freed, they took a Greyhound bus back to California. When it reached a stop sign near their community outside Sacramento, "I still remember the ladies on the bus started crying," Ouchida said. "Because they were home."



In this photo taken Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, Les Ouchida holds a 1943 photo of himself, front row, center, and his siblings taken at the internment camp his family was moved to, as he poses at the permanent exhibit titled "UpRooted Japanese Americans in World War II" at the California Museum in Sacramento, Calif.

Associated Press

The resolution, co-introduced by California Assembly Republican Leader Marie Waldron of Escondido, makes a passing reference to "recent national events" and says they serve

as a reminder "to learn from the mistakes of the past." Muratsuchi said the inspiration for that passage were migrant children held in U.S. government custody over the past year. □

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Orangutan granted 'personhood' turns 34, makes new friend

WAUCHULA, Fla. (AP) — A orangutan named Sandra, who was granted legal personhood by a judge in Argentina and later found a new home in Florida, celebrated her 34th birthday on Valentine's Day with a special new primate friend. Patti Ragan, director of the Center for Great Apes in Wauchula, Florida, says Sandra "has adjusted beautifully to her life at the sanctuary" and has befriended Jethro, a 31-year-old male orangutan.

Prior to coming to Florida, Sandra had lived alone in

a Buenos Aires zoo. Sandra was a bit shy when she arrived at the Florida center, which is home to 22 orangutans.

"Sandra appeared most interested in Jethro, and our caregivers felt he was a perfect choice because of his close age, calm demeanor, and gentle nature," Ragan said in a news release. "Sandra still observes and follows Jethro from a distance while they are in the process of getting to know and trust each other. But they are living harmoniously in the same

habitat spaces as they continue to gain confidence in their relationship."

Judge Elena Liberatori's landmark ruling in 2015 declared that Sandra is legally not an animal, but a non-human person, and thus entitled to some legal rights enjoyed by people, and better living conditions.

"With that ruling I wanted to tell society something new, that animals are sentient beings and that the first right they have is our obligation to respect them," she told The Associated Press. □



This Feb. 15, 2020 photo courtesy of the Center for Great Apes shows an orangutan named Sandra in Wauchula, Fla.

Associated Press

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Rival Democrats accuse Bloomberg of trying to 'buy' election

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) —

With the Nevada caucuses less than a week away, Democratic presidential candidates campaigning Sunday were fixated on a rival who wasn't contesting the state.

Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, Amy Klobuchar and Pete Buttigieg all targeted billionaire Mike Bloomberg, accusing him of buying his way into the election and making clear they were eager to take him on in a debate.

"He thinks he can buy this election," Sanders said of the former New York mayor at a rally in Carson City, Nevada. "Well, I've got news for Mr. Bloomberg — the American people are sick and tired of billionaires buying elections!"

Their attacks are a sign of how seriously the field is starting to take Bloomberg as he gains traction in the race and is on the cusp of qualifying for Wednesday's Democratic debate in Las Vegas. Bloomberg has bypassed the traditional early voting states including Nevada, focusing instead on the 14 states that vote in



Democratic presidential candidate and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is joined on stage by supporters during his campaign launch of "Mike for Black America," at the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020, in Houston.

Associated Press

the Super Tuesday primary on March 3. He has spent more than \$417 million of his own multibillion-dollar fortune on advertising nationwide, an unprecedented sum for any candidate in a primary.

The focus on Bloomberg comes amid anxiety among many establish-

ment-aligned Democrats over the early strength of Sanders, who won last week's New Hampshire primary and essentially tied for first place in Iowa with Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana. Sanders is hoping to notch a victory in Nevada on Saturday as moderates

struggle to unite behind a candidate who could serve as a counter to the Vermont senator, who has long identified as a democratic socialist.

The hundreds of millions of dollars that Bloomberg has pumped into the Super Tuesday states has only heightened the sense of uncertainty surrounding the Democratic race.

At Sanders' rally, the crowded cheered as the Vermont senator joked that Bloomberg is "struggling, he's down to his last \$60 billion" and derided him for skipping the early primary states.

It marked an escalation of the salvo Sanders launched Saturday against the former mayor, when he ticked off a litany of conservative positions Bloomberg has taken in the past, including opposing a minimum wage hike and his opposition to a number of Barack Obama's policies while president. On Saturday, Sanders suggested the former mayor's past conservatism and controversial comments make him a weak candidate against President Donald Trump, charging that Bloomberg, "with all his money, will not create the kind of excitement and energy we need" to beat Trump.

And on Sunday, he was joined by the current may-

or of New York, Bill de Blasio, who just this week endorsed Sanders. De Blasio introduced Sanders with an attack of his own on his predecessor, telling the crowd, "I'm sorry to report to you the chief proponent of stop and frisk is now running for president."

Klobuchar, speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation," accused Bloomberg of avoiding scrutiny by blanketing the airwaves and sidestepping debates or tough televised interviews.

"I think he cannot hide behind the airwaves and the money," she said. "I think he has to come on the shows. And I personally think he should be on the debate stage."

Klobuchar said she's raised \$12 million since her better-than-expected finish in third place in New Hampshire. She's maintained her campaign through a series of strong debate performances and argued that Bloomberg being on stage with his rivals would level the playing field.

"I'm never going to beat him on the airwaves, but I can beat him on the debate stage," she said.

Biden, speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," suggested that Bloomberg will face increased scrutiny as the race continues, pointing to his record on issues relating to race.

"\$60 billion can buy you a lot of advertising, but it can't erase your record," he said.

Biden knocked Bloomberg's past support of stop-and-frisk policing policies and his comments suggesting cracking down on racist mortgage lending practices contributed to the financial crisis, as well as his 2008 refusal to endorse Barack Obama for president. Bloomberg has been airing ads that tie him closely to Obama on issues like gun control and climate change.

Buttigieg likened Bloomberg to Trump when asked about reports that Bloomberg made sexist comments towards women and fostered a culture of sexism at his company. □



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Residents of Mississippi capital brace for more flooding

By ROGELIO V. SOLIS and REBECCA SANTANA

FLOWOOD, Miss. (AP)

— Residents of Jackson braced Sunday for the possibility of catastrophic flooding in and around the Mississippi capital as the Pearl River rose precipitously after days of torrential rain.

Gov. Tate Reeves said the Pearl would continue to rise throughout the day, and he warned that the state faces a "precarious situation that can turn at any moment."

Officials urged residents to pay attention to evacuation orders, check on road closures before traveling and stay out of floodwaters, warning that even seemingly placid waters could mask quickly moving currents and pollution. Law enforcement officials went door to door in affected areas, telling people to evacuate, Reeves said.

Rescuers performed four assisted evacuations Saturday, although they said none were needed overnight.

"We expect the river to continue to rise over the next 24 hours or so," Reeves said at a news conference in Jackson. "We are not out of the woods yet."

In the suburb of Flowood, John and Jina Smith had packed up as much as they could and left their home as waters rose Thursday.

On Sunday, their neighbor Dale Frazier took them back to their house in a rowboat, where they checked on the damage, then got in their own canoe and rowed away.

"We've been able to stay in here when the water gets up," John Smith said. "But as you've watched it over the years, you know when to get out. It's time to get out this time."

A foot and a half of water was inside his house, Smith said. He'd already been in touch with a contractor and insurance agent

about rebuilding. Both he and his wife say they love their home, where they can sit on their back porch and watch deer and other wildlife.

"It's going to take a while for us to rebuild, but we are safe, and we're all OK," Jina Smith said.

On Frazier's lot next door, the water was at the bottom of the driveway but had not crept inside the one-story house where he's lived for 23 years.

"The water is very close to my house. It could flood; it could not flood. It depends on the crest right now," he said.

Down the street, a Presbyterian church and several businesses were flooded. The National Weather Service said Sunday on its Twitter feed that the river was expected to crest Monday in the Jackson area at 37.5 feet. That's slightly down from the 38-foot (11.6-meter) crest that had been forecast for Sunday. The weather service said the river is currently at 36.42 feet in Jackson — its highest level since 1983.

The Pearl's highest recorded crest was 43.2 feet on April 17, 1979. The second-highest level occurred May 5, 1983, when the river rose to 39.58 feet.

On Saturday night, officials released water from the nearby Barnett Reservoir to control its levels. They urged residents in northeastern Jackson who live in the flood zone downstream from the reservoir to leave immediately. By Sunday morning, Reeves said the reservoir's inflow and outflow had equalized. Reservoir officials said in a statement later in the day that its water level had stabilized, allowing them to release less water than expected. Once the river crests Monday, it will take the water three to four days to go down significantly. Part of the reason is that forecasters expect several inches of rain between midday



Strong currents from the swollen Pearl River floods over a section of the Old Brandon Road Bridge in Jackson, Miss., Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020.

Tuesday and Wednesday

"It will be days before we are out of the woods and waters start to recede," the governor said. □

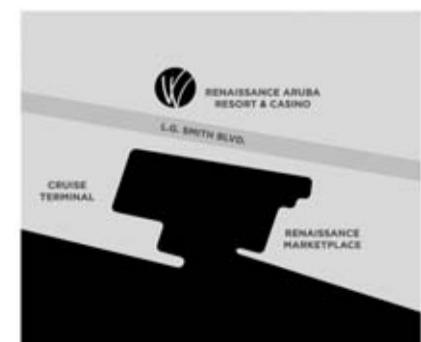


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Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr., briefs the media on the arrest of a 14-year-old male in the Dec. 2019 murder of Barnard College student Tessa Majors, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020 in New York. At left is NYPD Chief of Detectives Rodney Harrison and at right in New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea.

Associated Press

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14-year-old charged with Barnard College student death

By JULIE WALKER and MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A 14-year-old has been arrested in the fatal stabbing of a Barnard College student in a park during a robbery in December, a crime that rattled New York City residents, authorities said Saturday.

Rashaun Weaver has been indicted by a grand jury and was taken into custody Friday night without incident, New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said at a news conference.

Weaver, charged with second-degree murder and robbery, is the second teenager to be charged in the attack on 18-year-old Tessa Majors in a Manhattan park.

"We are confident that we have the person in custody who stabbed her," Shea said. "And that person will face justice in a court of law."

The Associated Press is naming the juvenile defendant because of the seriousness

of the crime and because he has been charged as an adult. Weaver's attorney, Elsie Chandler, did not immediately return a call to Neighbor Defender Service of Harlem seeking comment.

"He's a 14-year-old child and he's presumed not guilty," Chandler told the New York Post after Weaver's bail hearing Saturday, at which he was ordered held without bail at a juvenile facility until his arraignment Wednesday.

Majors was stabbed as she walked through Morningside Park early the evening of Dec. 11. She staggered up a flight of stairs to street level and collapsed in a crosswalk.

A criminal complaint released Saturday described Majors as struggling on a landing with three people and screaming, "Help me! I'm being robbed!"

Weaver said Majors was "hanging onto her phone" when he tried to take it, according to the complaint. Officials said they have evidence from videotapes,

witness identification and DNA evidence from Major's fingernail clippings linking Weaver to the crime.

The attack, two days before the start of final exams at the women's school, troubled city residents because of its proximity to campus and its apparent randomness. Barnard is part of the Ivy League's Columbia University.

"This arrest is a major milestone on the path to justice for Tessa Majors," said District Attorney Cy Vance.

A 13-year-old who was arrested Dec. 13 and charged as a juvenile with felony murder told detectives he was at the park with other youths but wasn't the one who stabbed Majors.

Vance said his office and the police are "in active investigation in terms of other suspects, and that will continue."

Majors, of Charlottesville, Virginia, played in a rock band and had told an editor from a newspaper internship in high school that she planned to take journalism classes in college. □

Judge: City can remove 176-year-old slave auction block

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. (AP) — A judge has ruled that officials in a Virginia city have the authority to approve the removal of a 176-year-old slave auction block from a street corner. Circuit Court Judge Sarah Deneke's ruling on Friday upheld the Fredericksburg City Council's vote in favor of relocating the weathered stone to a local museum, The Free Lance-Star reported.

A kiosk with information

about the auction block will replace it, the newspaper said.

It wasn't immediately clear when city officials plan to move the auction block to the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

Two businesses near the auction block, a restaurant owner and commercial building owner, sued to block the removal of the slave auction block. They said the block is listed as a landmark in a historic

district and a point of interest on a tourist map. They argued they will lose business from tourist traffic if the auction block is removed. The businesses also argued that the City Council's powers are limited to only those expressly granted by the state. But the judge concluded that Fredericksburg's city charter was granted by the state and gives it the authority to control, manage and dispose of its property. □

\$1 million grant goes to record black women's histories

NEW YORK (AP) — A trailblazer among black women in the business world wants to help make sure that the stories of other pioneering women like her are not forgotten.

The HistoryMakers, an oral archive that's recorded the stories of more than 3,300 African Americans, launched The WomanMakers initiative with a \$1 million gift from Ursula Burns, the former head of Xerox.

"We have to value our own stories," Burns said in a phone interview about the project that will focus on African American women. "We have to teach ourselves to actually value ourselves in our society."

Burns, 61, was chair and CEO of Xerox from 2009 to 2016. She spent her entire career at the company, working her way up from an internship in 1980 and, upon becoming CEO, was the first black woman to head a Fortune 500 company. Burns left Xerox after the company was split in two.

The initiative was kicked off at a Jan. 31 luncheon in New York City, where Burns presented Julieanna Richardson, who founded The HistoryMakers in 1999, with the monetary gift in honor of her late husband, Lloyd Bean.

"We have so much potential to leave a historical record that will not have any chance to being erased, that is what is exceedingly important to me," Richardson said about the initiative.

The launch included a number of women on the advisory committee for The WomenMakers initiative, who will help determine the 180 women whose stories will be recorded thanks to Burns' gift.

Those on the committee are high-profile figures including Anna Deavere Smith, Bethann Hardison, and Anita Hill. In the 20 years since its official launch, The HistoryMakers has recorded the

stories of black pioneers in a number of fields including Hank Aaron, Maya Angelou and Colin Powell. But even as an organization founded and led by a black woman, Richardson said there are still more men's stories in the archives than women's — about 800 more.

"When you look at different periods of time, even the modern-day civil rights movement, often the story of women's roles is not well-recorded or told," she said. Women, Richardson said, were often the ones keeping the archives, but, "we aren't keeping their histo-



In this Oct. 6, 2015 file photo, Ursula Burns speaks at the Eighth Annual John Wooden Global Leadership Award Dinner in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

ries at the same time." Telling their stories and showcasing their achievements is important, especially in these fraught partisan times, Burns said. "These endemic, unbelievably prejudicial discussions

we're having today about things we should no longer be talking about, the value and the worth of a human being that people think they can derive from the color of their skin," she said. □

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Americans who left cruise trade one quarantine for another

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Americans Cheryl and Paul Molesky decided to trade one coronavirus quarantine for another.

The couple from Syracuse, New York, made the decision to cut short a 14-day quarantine on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo, to be flown back to the United States. But they knew that if they were allowed to leave the ship, they'd have to spend another two-week quarantine period at a U.S. military facility to make sure they don't have the new virus that's been sweeping across Asia.

About 380 Americans were on the cruise ship. The Japanese defense ministry said around 300 of them had been making plans to leave. Some Americans disembarked Sunday night and boarded buses to take them to Tokyo's Haneda Airport. The U.S. State Department said later that two charter flights carrying cruise ship passengers had departed Tokyo and were on their way to the United States.

Canada, Hong Kong and Italy said they were planning similar flights of passengers.

The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo said Washington was evacuating the Americans because the passengers and crew members on board

the Diamond Princess were at a high risk of exposure to the virus.

The Americans were being flown to Travis Air Force Base in California and Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. After arriving in the U.S., all of the passengers will need to go through another 14 days of quarantine — meaning they will have been under quarantine for a total of nearly four weeks. Other governments, including Canada and Hong Kong, also will require the passengers to undergo a second 14-day quarantine.

"We are glad to be going home," Cheryl Molesky told NHK TV in Japan. "It's just a little bit disappointing that we'll have to go through quarantine again, and we will probably not be as comfortable as the Diamond Princess, possibly."

"The biggest challenge has been the uncertainty," she added.

Molesky also said she was getting concerned about the rising number of patients on the ship.

"It's a little bit scary with the numbers going up of the people being taken off the ship for the (virus), so I think it's time to go. I think it's time to cut our losses and take off," she said.

Japan on Sunday announced another 70 infections on the Diamond Princess, raising the ship's total number of cases to 355. Overall, Japan has 413 confirmed cases of the vi-



An ambulance leaves a port where the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship is docked Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Associated Press

rus, including one death. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," that 40 Americans have gotten infected, and those showing symptoms will not be able to get on the evacuation plane.

"If people on the plane start to develop symptoms, they'll be segregated within the plane," Fauci said, adding that the additional 14-day quarantine is because of the "degree of transmissibility on that cruise ship is essentially akin to being in a hot spot."

He added that an infected person who shows minimal

symptoms could still pass the virus to someone else. Asked how they felt about the additional 14-day quarantine in the United States, Cheryl Molesky sighed, and her husband said, "If we have to go through that, we will go through that." The couple spoke to the NHK TV before passengers were allowed off the ship, and it wasn't immediately known if they were able to board the flight to the U.S. Everyone was expected to receive a checkup before being allowed on the chartered flight, and the embassy said that those who showed symptoms of sickness would not be permitted to board the plane. American passengers who

have already tested positive for the virus will not be among those evacuated on the flights.

Some American passengers said they would pass up the opportunity to take a flight to the U.S. because of the additional quarantine. There also was concern about being on a long flight with other passengers who may be infected or in an incubation period.

One of the Americans, Matthew Smith, said in a tweet Sunday that he saw a passenger with no face mask talking at close quarters with another passenger. He said he and his wife scurried away. "If there are secondary infections on board, this is why. □

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U.S. defense chief slams China as rising threat to world order

By ROBERT BURNS and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Saturday cast China as a rising threat to world order — saying the world's most populous nation steals Western know-how, intimidates smaller neighbors and seeks an "advantage by any means and at any cost."

A frequent critic of China, Esper used an address to an international security conference in Munich, Germany, to give his most comprehensive condemnation yet of a communist country that he said tops the Pentagon's list of potential adversaries, followed by Russia, "rogue states" like North Korea and Iran, and continuing threats from extremist groups.

"The Chinese Communist Party is heading even faster and further in the wrong direction — more internal repression, more predatory economic practices, more heavy-handedness, and most concerning for me, a more aggressive military posture," he said.

Esper stressed that the United States does not want conflicts with China, and noted that the U.S. government has provided medical supplies to help China combat a coronavirus outbreak that has infected over 67,000 people. Still, he said Beijing has made clear its long-term intentions and said Europe and the rest of the world must "wake up" to the threats that China poses.

"The Communist Party and



U.S. Secretary for Defense Mark Esper speaks on the second day of the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020.

Associated Press

its associated organs, including the People's Liberation Army, are increasingly operating in theaters outside its borders, including Europe, and seeking advantage by any means, and at any cost," he said.

"While we often doubt the transparency and forthrightness of Beijing, when it comes to their security aims, we should take the Chinese government at its word," he said. "They have said that by 2035, the PRC intends to complete its military modernization, and, by 2049, it seeks to dominate Asia as the preeminent global military power." With words that echoed the Trump administration's criticisms of Iran, Esper said China represses its people and threatens its neighbors. "We want China to behave like a normal country," Esper said, adding "and that means the Chinese government needs to change its policies and behaviors."

Esper and his immediate predecessor, Jim Mattis,

have sought to shift the main focus of U.S. military and security policy toward China and away from small wars against insurgents and extremists. U.S. allies in Europe, while concerned about China's rise, are more immediately worried about Russia.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi later responded, telling the forum that Esper and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "say the same thing wherever they go about China" and dismissed their remarks as "lies."

"The root cause of all these problems and issues is that the U.S. does not want to see the rapid development and rejuvenation of China, and still less would they want to accept the success of a socialist country," Wang said through a translator.

He said China had a "right to develop" and said if Beijing and Washington worked together, it would benefit the whole world.

"The most important task for China and the U.S. is to sit down together to have a serious dialogue and find a way for two major countries with different social systems to live in harmony and interact in peace," he said. "China's ready and we hope the U.S. will work with us."

In remarks to the conference earlier Saturday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said China presents challenges as well as opportunities for Western nations. He said Europe and the United States need to work out a united

approach to China's rise. "There are opportunities, but also many challenges," Stoltenberg said, adding that it's important for Western countries to keep open lines of communication with Beijing. Also at the Munich conference, Pompeo refuted assertions that the United States under President Donald Trump was rejecting its traditional international leadership role. "I'm happy to report that the death of the transatlantic alliance is grossly over-exaggerated," Pompeo said. "The West is winning." □

Denmark arrests 27 people on suspected cocaine smuggling

Associated Press

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Danish police say they have arrested 27 people for suspected drug smuggling after finding some 100 kilograms of cocaine on a Bahamas-registered cargo vessel plying Danish waters. Copenhagen police said Sunday in a statement that the cocaine was seized during an internationally coordinated bust on Saturday on the container ship Duncan Island while it was sailing south of the town of Gedser. The suspects, all foreigners, are charged with serious drug crimes under Danish law and may face a sentence of up to 16 years in prison. They include the vessel's international crew with Russian, Latvian, Ecuador-

ian and Filipino nationals among others and remain in custody pending further investigation.

"We're naturally very pleased that many kilos of cocaine have not hit the street. Now we are investigating further to find out who is waiting in vain for the deliveries," said Inspector Dannie Riss, the head of the special Investigation unit at the Copenhagen police.

According to Danish broadcaster TV2, the vessel was en route from Helsingborg, Sweden to St. Petersburg, Russia when it was seized by authorities. It said the cocaine is believed to have a street value of approximately 350 million Danish kroner (\$50 million). □

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Afghans mark Soviet withdrawal as U.S. negotiates its own exit

By KATHY GANNON and RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Afghanistan on Saturday marked the 31st anniversary of the last Soviet soldier leaving the country. This year's anniversary came as the United States negotiates its own exit after 18 years of war, America's longest.

Some of the same Afghan insurgent leaders who drove out the former Soviet Union have been fighting the U.S., and have had prominent seats at the negotiating table during year-long talks with Washington's peace envoy.

Moscow pulled out of Afghanistan in 1989, a decade after invading the country to support an allied communist government. Afghan mujaheddin, or holy warriors, received weapons and training from the U.S. throughout the 1980s to fight the Red Army. Some of those mujaheddin went on to form the Taliban.

The U.S. and the Taliban



In this Feb. 7, 1989 file photo, a Soviet soldier waves as his armored convoy makes its way back to the Soviet Union along a north Afghanistan highway.

Associated Press

agreed Friday to a temporary truce. If successful, it could open the way for another historic withdrawal that would see all American troops leave the country.

The chief negotiator for the Taliban, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, was once

an American ally against the Soviets. So was another Taliban negotiator, Khairullah Khairkhwa. He spent 12 years detained at Guantanamo Bay until his release in 2014 in exchange for U.S. Army Sgt Bowe Bergdahl.

The Taliban are now at their strongest since the

2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan ousted them from power.

Kabul's streets were quiet Saturday, normally the busy start of the Afghan workweek. There were no official public celebrations marking the anniversary, and most people took the

holiday off. Shakeb Rohin was only seven years old when the Soviets pulled out. Now a graduate of Kabul University's economics department, he said he can't remember the Soviet occupation. Since then, he said he's witnessed only war.

"We are so tired of war, we want a peaceful solution for Afghanistan's problems," he said.

Abdul Shakor Ahmadi, 56, recalled how people were very happy on the day of the pullout. But he said the civil war that followed was worse.

With the Cold War over, the U.S. lost interest in Afghanistan. The mujaheddin government — which included many of the warlords in Kabul today — eventually turned their guns on each other in the early 1990s. The fighting killed tens of thousands of civilians. It also led some former mujaheddin to regroup into the Taliban, who rose to power in 1996 and implemented a harsh interpretation of Islamic rule. □



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a traffic policeman wearing a face mask checks a car during a snowfall in Xiaogan in central China's Hubei Province, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020.

Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — The head of the World Health Organization is urging governments to step up their

efforts to prepare for the COVID-19 virus and says "it's impossible to predict which direction this epidemic

WHO chief praises China's virus fight, urges more from world

will take." The U.N. health agency's director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, told a gathering of international foreign policy and security leaders Saturday that WHO has been encouraged that there has not yet been widespread transmission of the virus outside of China.

"The steps China has taken to contain the outbreak at its source appear to have

brought to the world time," Tedros told the Munich Security Conference. "We're encouraged that an international team of experts is now on the ground working closely with Chinese counterparts to understand the outbreak."

But he said the agency is still "concerned by the continued increase in the number of cases in China," and by reports about the

number of health workers who have been infected or died.

"We're concerned by the lack of urgency in funding the response from the international community, ... (by the) serial disruption in the market for personal protective equipment" and by the extent of misinformation and the havoc the virus could cause in weaker health systems, he said. □



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U.S. secretary of state visits Senegal to start Africa tour



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo departs from the International airport in Dakar, Senegal, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, as part of Pompeo's first visit to sub-Saharan Africa during which he will seek to lay out a positive vision for US cooperation with the continent where China has been increasingly active.

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the Trump administration is working to determine what level of American military forces is needed in West Africa to counter the rise of extremist violence in the region. Speaking at the end of his visit to Senegal, Pompeo said he discussed the issue of the U.S. military presence in West Africa with President Macky Sall amid reports that the Trump administration intends to reduce troops in Africa.

"We did have a lot of conversation about security issues here, about America's role in those. We've made it clear that the Depart-

ment of Defense is looking at West Africa to make sure we have our force levels right," Pompeo said to reporters Sunday.

"I was here as CIA director, so I know these security issues very, very well. We'll get it right, we'll get it right collectively; I'm convinced of that."

Pompeo said the U.S. will work with Senegal, other West African countries and France to counter the growing threat of extremist violence.

"We have an obligation to get security right here, in the region — it's what will permit economic growth and we're determined to do that," Pompeo said.

"And I'm convinced that when our review is done, we'll have a conversation with not just Senegal, but all the countries in the region ... We'll deliver an outcome that works for all of us."

Senegal's Foreign Minister Amadou Ba confirmed that West Africa is concerned about the extremist violence that is spreading in West Africa.

"Terrorism has no border, and it is very costly," said Ba at the news conference with Pompeo. He said that Senegal and the region wants continued military support from the U.S.

"Yes, we are under threat," Ba said.

"We want them (the U.S.) to

remain present. We hope they will continue to support in security areas. We hope they will continue to support us in training and intelligence. This was discussed with the president of the republic."

Pompeo came to Senegal to start his tour of Africa, the first U.S. Cabinet official to visit in more than 18 months. He left Senegal Sunday to go to Angola and after that will travel to Ethiopia as the Trump administration tries to counter the growing interest of China, Russia and other global powers in Africa and its booming young population of more than 1.2 billion. In Angola, an oil-rich country whose people remain impoverished, Pompeo will meet with President Joao Lourenco, who is making strides against corruption, including actions against close relatives of the former leader.

Then Pompeo heads to Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous nation with more than 100 million people and the headquarters of the African Union. Ethiopia, a key U.S. security ally in the Horn of Africa, has undergone dramatic political reforms since Nobel Peace Prize-winning Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took office in 2018.

The loosening of repressive measures has been exploited by some with long-held grievances, leading to sometimes violent ethnic tensions that threaten a national election later this year. □

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Angry protests in Mexico after woman's gruesome killing

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Angry demonstrations broke out in Mexico City on Friday as hundreds of women protested the gruesome slaying and mutilation of a young woman, a case that has come to personify outrage over the rising incidence of gender-related killings, or femicides.

In the morning, dozens of protesters spray-painted slogans such as "We won't be silenced" on the facade and doorway of the capital's National Palace as President Andrés Manuel López Obrador was holding his daily news conference inside.

Hours later hundreds marched to the offices of a media outlet that published grisly images of the crime scene, and a newspaper truck outside was partially set ablaze. Some spray-painted the plastic shields of riot officers as the crowd chanted "Not one more murdered!" and "Justice!" Police unleashed pepper spray.

As a cool rain fell in the



Members of the Marabunta Brigade try to stop police from attacking demonstrators during a protest against gender violence in Mexico City, Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.

Associated Press

evening, those remaining left and walked down the central Reforma boulevard, where some bus stop windows were shattered and signs vandalized. About 10 women are slain each day across Mexico just because they are women, the government and

activists say. Last year there were 3,825 in all, which was up 7% from 2018, according to federal figures.

Not only have attacks on women become more frequent, they have become more grisly. In September, a young female musician in the southern state of

Oaxaca was burned with acid by two men who testified they had been hired by a former politician and businessman who allegedly had an affair with her. But the killing last weekend of Ingrid Escamilla, a young Mexico City resident who was allegedly murdered by

a boyfriend, has horrified Mexicans for its brutality. The man, who has been arrested and purportedly confessed to killing Escamilla with a knife, mutilated her body and flushed part of her corpse into the sewer.

Indignation grew after some local media published horrific photos of the skinned corpse, apparently leaked by city police officers.

The protesters read a statement Friday saying "it enrages us how Ingrid was killed, and how the media put her body on display."

"It enrages us that the public judges us, saying 'this isn't the right way to express your rage,'" the statement continued. "We are not mad, we are furious."

In the past, women's protests in Mexico City had been criticized for spray-painting historical monuments and trashing city infrastructure, but the damage Friday was minor, and criticism almost non-existent. □

Brazil homicides fall to lowest level in at least 12 years



In this July 31, 2019 file photo, a police officer aims his weapon during an operation in the Mare complex slum of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

By MARCELO DE SOUSA

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro celebrated Friday after a crime index showed homicides fell to their lowest level in more than a decade during the first year of his term.

Brazil had 41,635 killings in 2019, down 19% from the prior year and the least

number of homicides since 2007, when the so-called Violence Monitor index was launched. It is a partnership between the non-profit Brazilian Forum of Public Security, the University of São Paulo's Center for the Study of Violence, and news website G1, which published the data Friday.

"IN OUR GOVERNMENT HO-

MICIDES, VIOLENCE AND FALLACIES FALL!" an exultant Bolsonaro wrote on his Twitter account, sharing the G1 news report. "Our government extends a strong embrace to all the security agents of the country. Brazil continues on the right path."

Bolsonaro, a far-right politician, made fighting crime and violence one of his signature campaign issues that ultimately swept him to the presidency in a country where people had grown weary of growing insecurity. He has deployed rhetoric that encourages violence against crime, including saying police officers who kill should be awarded medals rather than slapped with lawsuits. In 2016, the most deadly year in the Violence Monitor's records, Brazil had nearly 60,000 homicides. Robert Muggah, co-founder of security think tank Igarapé Institute, said the fall

in homicides was indeed "stunning," but questioned the government's claim about its cause.

He said crimes began to fall early in 2018, before Bolsonaro won the presidential election, and noted that the leader signed an anti-crime bill to tackle violence just at the end of 2019.

"Although Bolsonaro and his supporters have sought to own recent improvements in public security, there are other factors at play that have little to do with their efforts," Muggah said.

He and other security experts don't agree that more aggressive policing is responsible for better security indicators. They have offered other theories for the national improvement: individual states adopting new security policies, easing conflict between rival drug factions, demographic shifts, the trans-

fer of gang members to federal prisons, stronger economic activity, and even proliferation of smart phones keeping young people off the streets.

Muggah said the various factors have influenced events in different degrees, but the impact of each is not clear.

Tough talk against crime has gained strength in Brazilian politics. Former police and military officers who mimicked Bolsonaro's rhetoric also rode his coat-tails to office in the nation's Congress and state assemblies. Residents of Brazil's two biggest cities, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, elected governors in 2018 who promised zero tolerance for crime.

In Rio and some other states, the decrease in homicides has been accompanied by a jump in killings by police. Those aren't classified as homicides and are rarely investigated. □

LOCAL



News from our marines:

Company in de West holds final exercise on Curaçao



SAVANETA — The Bravo Wonju Company of 11 Airmobile Brigade practiced for the last time in the Caribbean as a rotating CIDW unit during the WONJU PATROL exercise. This time, the infantry battle groups were physically challenged under aggravated circumstances such as little sleep and limited eating. The soldiers are tested on skills and drills, physical fitness and mental resilience to determine who the best infantry group within the rotating unit is. The program included the Drie Gebroeders, repelling from the Juliana Bridge and activities in and around the water. A new CIDW, rotation 33, will arrive at the end of February. They are the Alpha Company of 11 Infantry Battalion Garderegiment Grenadiers and Hunters nicknamed the "King Company".

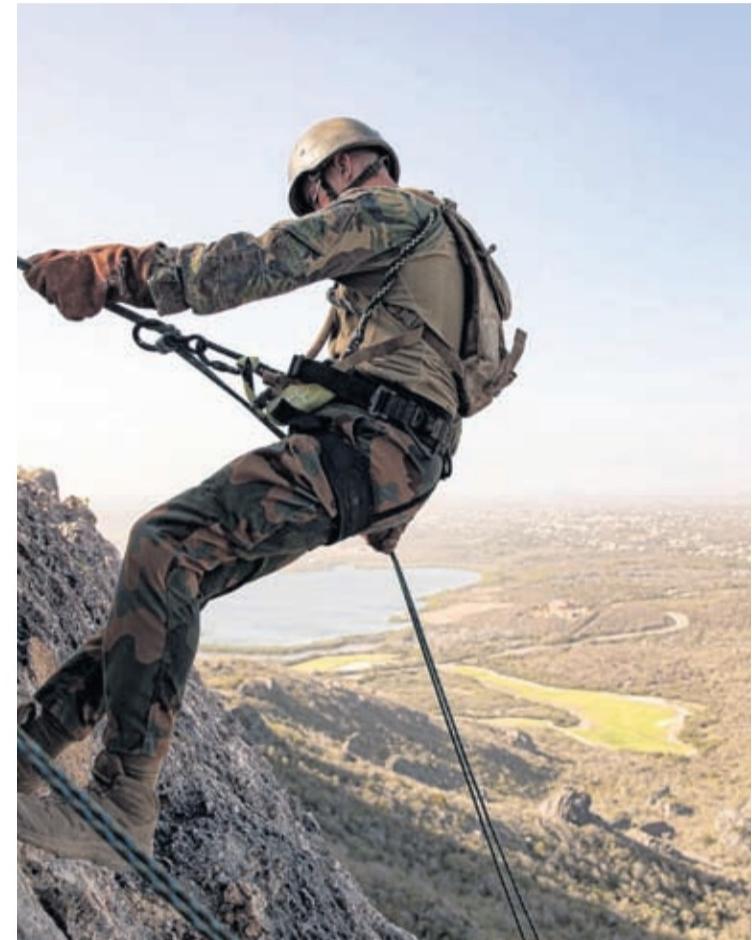
Transport ship Commandant of the Navy in the Caribbean on dry land in the Netherlands

The maintenance of Zr. Ms. Pelikaan is in full swing. Damen Shipyards Group will carry out a so-called "Mid-Life Update" on the transport ship in the coming months. This makes the ship usable again in the coming years.

Last week the Pelikaan was transferred from the maintenance jetty in Den Helder to Harlingen. Here the ship

went into the dry dock to start the second phase of the maintenance—an important process of the update.

At the dry dock maintenance can be done on the outside and bottom of the ship which consists of new paint layers and maintenance to the ship rudders. The Pelikaan has not been seen in the Caribbean since the beginning of November. She made a crossing to the Netherlands, with the first maintenance started mid-December. The ship will be operational again in August. This is deliberately planned so that the ship can support one of the most important Defense tasks in this region: supporting civil authorities, such as the provision of emergency assistance following natural disaster. □



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Urgent Care Aruba (UCA) introduces Preventive Health Check Up



ORANJESTAD — Urgent Care Aruba situated at the Noord Medical Center continues to innovate its services in benefit of their patients and is now introducing health promotion and disease prevention programs focused on keeping businesses, locals, and island visitors healthy.

Let us introduce you to our Executive Check Up, this allows patients, both males and female to have their current health situation in check. This annual checkup is available to local companies wanting to establish a preventive measure to their employee's health as well as locals and



island visitors wanting to take care of their own wellbeing. This package includes; Laboratory Exams, Medical imaging: X-Ray/ Ultrasound-Echo, EKG, Gynecology (for our female patients), and Physician Evaluation (Consultation and Physical examination).

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The Executive Check Up is available with appointment between Monday to Saturday from 8am till 10am.

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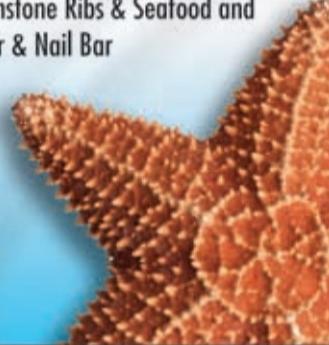
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A very memorable moment at Costa Linda Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH — Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Douglas & Geraldine Perry** from Minnesota, USA.

The Perry's have been visiting Aruba for 35 years consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. The ceremony was one of importance to us because honoring visitors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.



The lovely couple love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety

of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them. They also brought their children and grandchildren to the

island many times before. Richardson together with the representatives of the Costa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over

some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



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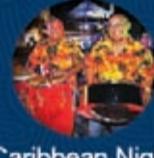
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Renaissance Ocean Suites and A.T.A. honor two couples as ambassadors

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors and Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Jim & Kathy Enders** as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba, together with Couple Julian & Judith Weinstein as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba.

The Emerald Ambassador is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. Judith & Julian have been visiting Aruba for more than 40 years consecutively! The ceremony was one of importance to us because honoring visitors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.

This lovely group of people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Renaissance Ocean Suites

presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.□



Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

More than a company

EAGLE BEACH — One of my favorite things about working in small hotel is that you know everyone you work with and they know you, except maybe the night shift people who we don't see much, but still know are there and you'll see at the Christmas party. They become an extended member of the family, people you get to know over time and care about beyond just your professional relationship with them.

People probably don't realize just how deeply connected those of us who work in small hotels are. Whenever someone has been absent for a few days it's not uncommon to start hearing questions about if the person is on vacation or if everything is alright with them or if their shift has changed. There's always a hearty and warm welcome back once you see each other again and trying to get to your work station takes an extra bit of time as you see more people and spend a few minutes chatting and catching up.

Over the years I've gotten used to this little rhythm and routine and it makes coming to work a joy, everyone has their little greetings, jokes and stories to tell. Of course this means that when someone leaves the job for a new opportunity or retirement their presence is very much missed. Passing through the hallways or going to the office where they used to be hits you with a bit of nostalgia.

I experienced that the other day when visiting the housekeeping office and for the first time since I can remember, going up there was a quiet affair. One of our housekeeping supervisors, who retired earlier this year, would always be in the office, between breaks on Saturday cracking jokes and telling stories.

On the days I would go up to check in and hand off anything that needs to go to the rooms, she would always make me laugh and tell me stop giving the ladies more work. I would offer my services to help in a room and she would often reject me on the grounds of being wholly unqualified to help.

Little moments of interactions like that are what get me and others through a hard work day. Sharing problems and having a listening



ear, having someone there to back you up or make a joke with you when you need it most. All these things makes the bond stronger. Like any family we have our ups and our downs, but we're always there for each other. We fight, we make up and we carry on working towards a common goal.

The genuine love, care and support we all have for each other is what make us more than just a company. We celebrate each other's success and even if those successes take someone on a path away from our resort we are their biggest supporters. We may not want them to leave, but there's no shortage of updates on how they're doing and Aruba being a small island, we are guaranteed to see them again. When we do the reunion is beautiful and as if no time has passed at all.□



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

SPORTS



In this June 28, 2008, file photo, former Toronto Blue Jays player Tony Fernandez attends the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame & Museum ceremony in St. Marys, Ontario.

Former star SS Fernandez dies at 57; Blue Jays hits leader

TORONTO (AP) — Tony Fernández, a stylish shortstop who made five All-Star teams during his 17 seasons in the major leagues and helped the Toronto Blue Jays win the 1993 World Series, died Sunday after complications from a kidney disease. He was 57.

Fernández was taken off a life support system in the afternoon with his family present at a hospital in Weston, Florida, said Imrad Hallim, the director and co-founder of the Tony Fernández Foundation. Fernández had been in a medically induced coma and had waited years for a new kidney.

Fernández won four straight Gold Gloves with the Blue Jays in the 1980s and holds club records for career hits and games played. A clutch hitter in five trips to the postseason, he had four separate stints with Toronto and played for six other teams.

Continued on Page 22

GREAT SCOTT!



Adam Scott (70) holds off Genesis field for first Tour win since 2016

Adam Scott, of Australia, hoists his trophy on the 18th green after winning the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles.

Associated Press
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Rains postpones Daytona 500, dampening event, Trump's visit

By JENNA FRYER

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

The Daytona 500 has been postponed by rain for the first time since 2012, dampening NASCAR's season opener that started with a ballyhooed visit from President Donald Trump. The race was postponed after two lengthy delays totaling more than three hours. The race will now begin at 4 p.m. Monday and be broadcast live on Fox. It's the second time in 62 years that "The Great American Race" will finish on a Monday.

The first delay of the day came moments after the presidential motorcade completed a ceremonial parade lap around the 2 1/2-mile track. Trump's armored limousine nicknamed "The Beast" exited Daytona International Speedway, and the sky opened for a brief shower that forced drivers back to pit road.

The start already had been pushed back 13 minutes to accommodate Trump's trip. Ricky Stenhouse Jr. eventually led the field to the green flag and was out front for the first 20 laps before heavier rain soaked a racing surface that takes hours to dry.

NASCAR called drivers back to their cars around 6:40 p.m. EST, hoping to get more laps in before more showers hit again. Some drivers showed, but the heaviest rain of the day forced a postponement.

It no doubt choked some of the excitement out of an event that had been a rousing celebration for hours, some of it prompted by Trump's dramatic entrance. Thousands cheered as Air Force One performed a flyover and landed at Daytona International Airport a few hundred yards behind the track. Trump's motorcade arrived a few minutes later, eliciting another loud ovation. Both entrances were broadcast on giant video boards around the superspeedway.

At least a dozen drivers were escorted from the pre-race meeting to a private introduction with

Trump.

"I got to meet the president! How cool is that?" driver Aric Almirola said. Trump served as the grand marshal for the Daytona 500 and gave the command for drivers to start their engines. Trump, with first lady Melania Trump by his side, addressed the crowd and called the opener "a legendary display of roaring engines, soaring spirits and the American skill, speed and power that we've been hearing about for so many years."

"For 500 heart-pounding miles, these fierce competitors will chase the checkered flag, fight for the Harley J. Earl trophy and make their play for pure American glory," Trump said. "That's what it is: pure,

American glory."

Trump and his wife then got in the limousine and turned a lap. They avoided the high-banked turns at Daytona and stayed on the apron through the corners. The president's visit was widely welcomed by NASCAR fans. Trump 2020 flags flooded the infield, and some fans wore them as capes in the garage area. His presence also created huge lines at entrances, with many fans complaining while waiting hours to get through security.

Former NASCAR chairman and CEO Brian France, who was replaced following his August 2018 arrest on DUI charges, was on Air Force One with the president and first lady. They traveled from West Palm Beach.



Air Force One, carrying President Donald Trump, makes a pass over Daytona International Speedway before the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Among those who met them at the airport: current NASCAR chairman Jim France and fellow top executives Lesa France Kennedy and Ben Kennedy. □

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Adam Scott wins at Riviera, and this time it counts

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Adam Scott contemplated the safe shot to get him out of his mess on the 15th hole at Riviera, knowing it would probably cost him his two-shot lead but not yet the tournament.

On a Sunday filled with big blunders and untimely mistakes, Scott changed his mind.

"I thought, 'Well, you can maybe win the tournament if you hit a great flop shot here.' So I thought I might as well go for it," Scott said after his two-shot victory in the Genesis Invitational, this one that counts in the record book.

The flop shot to 5 feet allowed him to escape with bogey.

Two holes later, he ran in a 10-foot birdie putt for a two-shot cushion and carried that to a 1-under 70 and a win that felt overdue.

Scott won the Australian PGA two months ago and hadn't played since then. Still, it had been nearly four years since his last PGA Tour victory. That changed at Riviera, his favorite course, on a final day so tough no shot shot better than 68.

Scott made clutch putts for birdie, par and bogey. But it was that decision — and the shot — that stood out.

"I had a little bit of that kind of mindset, not just today but the whole week, of 'what have I got to lose?' ... Give myself a good chance to get back in the winner's circle on the PGA Tour," he said.

The victory comes 15 years after Scott won a playoff at



Adam Scott, of Australia, reacts after finishing the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. Scott won the tourney.

Associated Press

Riviera that didn't count as official because rain shortened the tournament to 36 holes. He earned every bit of this victory, his 14th on the PGA Tour and 29th worldwide.

So tense was Sunday that nearly a dozen players had a chance to win. Five players had a share of the lead at some point.

The list included Rory McIlroy, who never recovered from a triple bogey; Harold Varner III, who chunked his 3-wood off the 10th tee so badly that the shot traveled 129 yards and led to double bogey. Matt Kuchar went 15 holes with three bogeys and no bird-

ies to fall behind.

"Honestly, I didn't expect it to be as difficult as it was, but everyone was finding it tough out there," McIlroy said after a 73 that left him in a tie for fifth, but still No. 1 in the world. "Adam held on well at the end."

Tiger Woods had his problems, too, but he was never in contention.

Woods played a five-hole stretch late in his round at 5 over and shot 77 to finish last among the 68 players who made the cut. It was the first time Woods has finished last alone since the Memorial in 2015.

"Good news, I hit every ball forward, not backwards, a

couple sideways," Woods said.

The final round became wide open after the fifth hole when Scott and McIlroy hit shots that bounced over the green and across a series of swales. McIlroy tried to bump a shot into the hill and it came up short and rolled back. He flopped the next one about 20 feet away and three-putted for triple bogey.

On the par-3 sixth, he hit it on the wrong side of the bunker in the middle of the green and dropped another shot.

Scott tried a flop behind the fifth green that came

up short. He went to his long putter, barely got it up the hill and onto the green and made double bogey. The difference was the next hole. He made an 18-foot birdie above the hole.

"It's not time to get flustered and try something new on the sixth hole of the final round," Scott said. "I just really tried to do what I had done all week on that next swing and made a good swing and made a good putt. That gave me the belief that I just had to keep doing that all day and believe that there was enough good golf in me to get me in a position at the end to have a chance."

He finished at 11-under 273 and moved to No. 7 in the world, his first time in the top 10 in nearly three years. Scott won by two shots over Sung Kang, who started eagle-double bogey and shot 69; Scott Brown, who played bogey-free on the back nine and birdied the 18th for a 68; and Kuchar, who had a 72.

Hideki Matsuyama made the cut on the number and finished three shots behind in a tie for fifth with McIlroy, Bryson DeChambeau, Max Homa and Joel Dahmen.

"I'm stoked with this," Scott said. "It's a big step, whatever point in my career I'm at. I haven't won for three years. This feels very special."

It showed at the end. He rapped in a 3-foot par putt, stood back and raised his right fist in the air. This victory was a long time coming, and it came on his favorite PGA Tour course. And this time, it counted. □

Surging Bruins earn 3-1 win over Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — A loss in the seventh game of the 2019 Stanley Cup Final could have carried over to the following season, except the Boston Bruins' strong culture has helped them remain at the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

Charlie McAvoy, Charlie Coyle and Patrice Bergeron each scored, and the Bruins began a four-game trip with a 3-1 win over the New York Rangers on Sunday.

"We expect to play well every night," Bruins alternate captain Brad Marchand said. "When we play well, we are going to win a majority of the games. We just hold ourselves to a high standard. We don't accept losing in the room, or in the organization."

Jaroslav Halak made 25

saves as Boston picked up its ninth win in 10 games. Mika Zibanejad scored, but the Rangers' four-game winning streak was snapped. Alexander Georgiev made his third start in a row for New York and had 31 saves in his team-leading 26th start.

Coyle scored the winner with a short-handed goal at 18:42 of the second period. The forward stole a puck from Jacob Trouba at the blueline and outskated everyone on the ice before converting a breakaway for his 14th of the season. "It takes a while to pick yourself up from that," Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy said. "That was the big boost for us."

McAvoy opened the scoring at 19:18 of the first period after a puck took an



New York Rangers goaltender Alexander Georgiev (40) makes the save against Boston Bruins center Danton Heinen (43) during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

odd bounce over Georgiev's head. McAvoy tossed a shot near the net and the puck bounced off two Rangers skaters before finding the back of the net. McAvoy also scored in the Bruins' 4-1 win against the Detroit Red Wings on Saturday.

"I knew I hadn't scored, but I wasn't losing sleep at

night," McAvoy said of his 51-game goal drought to start the season. "It is nice to get a couple in a short amount of time, more importantly we got two wins on this back-to-back." Zibanejad ended Halak's shutout bid with a power-play goal at 9:52 of the third period. Artemi Panarin and Ryan Strome assisted

on the play. Bergeron added an empty-net goal in the final minute.

"They are a hard team, they defend very well, they have a ton of experience, they are deep down the middle," Rangers coach David Quinn said of the Bruins. "There is a reason why they have the most points in the league." □

Obama panel celebrates off-court work of NBA stars

CHICAGO (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo is passionate about helping children in Greece and Africa. Kevin Love is trying to shine the brightest light he can on mental health by sharing his own struggles. Chris Paul is aiming to ensure that technology comes to schools where it hasn't been affordable.

Former President Barack Obama is aware of all those endeavors.

And he's trying to make sure plenty of other people find out as well.

That's why Obama invited that trio of NBA stars to sit alongside him for a panel discussion hosted by his foundation on Saturday, saying he invited that trio of basketball stars to laud what he called their "extraordinary leadership" when it comes to their off-court work.

"It's so much bigger than basketball," Love said.

Obama clearly agrees. The foundation that was created in 2014 has championed causes like the ones that are near and dear to Antetokounmpo, Paul and Love, which is why the 44th President decided to invite them to sit for what was called a "fireside chat."

Most of the conversation had nothing to do with basketball, which is exactly the way it was planned. "Part of the reason I wanted to convene these three, in addition to being amazing athletes, they're good people and each of them are at different stages in their careers," Obama said. "You've got old Chris Paul down at the end, the young guy (Antetokounmpo) here and Kevin somewhere in the middle. But each of them has shown character on the court but also off the court. And the work I'm doing after the presidency is

entirely focused on how do we lift up and identify and amplify and support the amazing next generation of leaders that are coming up."

Obama is a longtime and passionate basketball fan — this event, in his hometown of Chicago, was his second official event during NBA All-Star weekend in the Windy City after one with children and first- and second-year players Friday — and he has aligned with NBA players many times before to highlight certain messages.

In February 2019, Obama sat with Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry to mark the fifth anniversary of My Brother's Keeper — an initiative he launched after the 2012 shooting death of unarmed Florida teen Trayvon Martin. The death of Martin, a 17-year-old African-American, sparked protests over racial profiling.



Former president Barack Obama talks during a panel with NBA players Chris Paul, Kevin Love and Giannis Antetokounmpo and sports analyst Michael Wilbon in Chicago on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020.

Associated Press

This time, it was for other issues, all important as well. Love told the story of why he decided to take his long struggle with mental health and battle against depression public. Paul talked about why it was important for him to make sure schools in poorer neighborhoods aren't left behind.

Antetokounmpo told the story of how neighbors — in a predominantly white neighborhood — helped make sure that his parents, who moved to Greece from Nigeria in search of a better life, thrived.

"All I know is, people gave to me," Antetokounmpo said. "I've got to give back." □

Manfred: No tolerance for beanballs in wake of Astros' scam

NORTH PORT, Fla. (AP) —

With baseball ablaze over the Houston Astros' cheating scandal, commissioner Rob Manfred met with nearly half of the major leagues managers Sunday and told them to knock off any notion of get-even beanballs.

"I hope that I made it extremely clear to them that retaliation in-game by throwing at a batter intentionally will not be tolerated, whether it's Houston or anybody else," Manfred said. "It's dangerous and it is not helpful to the current situation."

Cody Bellinger, Kris Bryant, Trevor Bauer and Carlos Correa were among the All-Stars recently trading threats, accusations and barbs as spring training opened. The revelation of Houston's sign-stealing scam, the punishment imposed by Major League Baseball and poorly received apologies by the Astros further enhanced anger across the sport, with players, club management and fans all joining in.

"I think that the back and forth that's gone on is not



Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred pauses before answering a question about the Houston Astros, during a news conference at the Atlanta Braves' spring training facility Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in North Port, Fla.

Associated Press

healthy," Manfred said.

Manfred had previously planned to attend a news conference at the Atlanta Braves' new camp, along with managers and representatives of teams training in Florida to talk about the upcoming season. Instead of an uplifting look at

the upcoming season, as this annual press session is, there was no doubt what was the No. 1 topic.

Manfred said he would personally talk to the managers of the teams that train in Arizona on Tuesday.

In further fallout from the Astros' scheme, Manfred

said the investigation into the Boston Red Sox could be completed within two weeks. He also said he planned to meet the players' union to discuss new rules limiting in-game video access.

"I do expect that we will for 2020 have really serious

restrictions on player and playing personnel access to video in-game," Manfred said. "I think it's really important for us to send a message to our fans that not only did we investigate and punish, but we altered our policies in a way that will help make sure it doesn't happen again."

Manfred said MLB officials discussed the possibility of vacating the Astros' 2017 World Series championship. "First of all, it had never happened in baseball," Manfred said. "I am a precedent guy. The 2017 World Series will always be looked at as different, whether not you put an asterisk or ask for the trophy back. Once you go down that road as for changing the result on the field, I just don't know where you stop."

Astros players were granted immunity for taking part in the investigation but Manfred said that "if I was in a world where I could have found the facts without granting immunity, I would have done that."

"They had an obligation to play by the rules and they didn't," Manfred said. □

Continued from Page 18

One of those was the New York Yankees, who replaced him at shortstop with a 21-year-old Derek Jeter in 1996. Fernández was slated to slide over to second base and stick around as insurance, but he broke his right elbow (for the second time in his career) lunging for a ball late in spring training and missed the entire season.

Jeter, of course, went on to win AL Rookie of the Year and the first of his five World Series titles. Fernández, who had been set to help ease Jeter's transition, was given a World Series ring by the Yankees that season.

The next year, Fernández caught on at second with the Cleveland Indians and was instrumental in their 1997 American League pennant. He batted .357 in the AL Championship Series against Baltimore and homered in the 11th inning at Camden Yards to give



In this Sept. 17, 1999, file photo, Toronto Blue Jays third baseman Tony Fernandez throws to first as he tumbles to the turf during third-inning AL action against the Chicago White Sox in Toronto.

OPS. He went 7 for 21 (.333) with nine RBIs in the 1993 World Series, helping the Blue Jays beat Philadelphia in six games for their second consecutive title.

A wiry switch-hitter with speed, Fernández made his major league debut with the Blue Jays at age 21 in September 1983. He

doubles, 92 triples, 246 stolen bases and a .746 OPS. He struck out only 784 times in 8,793 plate appearances — never more than 74 times in a season.

Especially early in his career, the rail-thin Fernández was a breathtaking defender at shortstop. Silky smooth in the field, he had

a familiar way of slinging the ball almost underhand from his hip, causing his throws to arc their way to first base before landing softly in a teammate's mitt. He was part of a memorable blockbuster trade in December 1990 that sent Fernández and slugger Fred McGriff from Toronto to San Diego for Hall of Fame second baseman Roberto Alomar and outfielder Joe Carter, who hit the game-ending home run that won the 1993 World Series for the Blue Jays. Fernández was traded to the Mets after the 1992 season and then back to Toronto in June 1993. He spent 1995 as the primary shortstop for a Yankees team that gave the franchise its first playoff berth in 14 years.

He signed back on with the Blue Jays for 1998 and made his final All-Star team at age 37 with them in 1999. Playing third base, he set career bests by bat-

ting .328 with 75 RBIs and an .877 OPS. His 41 doubles equaled a career high.

Fernández played the next year in Japan, then split his last big league season between Milwaukee and Toronto. He finished up where he started, hitting .305 over 48 games for the Blue Jays in 2001. Fernández is Toronto's career leader in hits (1,583), triples (72) and games played (1,450). He was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008.

He was born in San Pedro de Macoris in the Dominican Republic, a cradle of shortstops and home to dozens of major leaguers who followed such as Sammy Sosa, Alfonso Soriano and Robinson Canó.

After he retired from baseball, Fernández became an ordained minister and the Tony Fernández Foundation was established to assist underprivileged and troubled children. □



Slovakia's Petra Vlhova crosses the finish line to win an alpine ski, women's World Cup slalom in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020.

Associated Press

Vlhova wins slalom to overtake absent Shiffrin in standings

KRANJSKA GORA, Slovenia (AP) —

Petra Vlhova won her third straight women's World Cup slalom Sunday to overtake the absent Mikaela Shiffrin on the top of the discipline standings. Vlhova was more than nine-tenths off the lead in fourth place after the first run but posted the fastest time in a free-flowing second.

The Slovakian skier, who also won in Zagreb and Flachau recently and finished on the podium in 13 of the last 15 races, now leads the discipline standings by 20 points from Shiffrin.

The American three-time overall champion sat out the race, taking a break from skiing since the death of her father, Jeff Shiffrin, two weeks ago.

"I am so, so happy that I found something inside me," Vlhova said. "Because the first run I did really bad. The second run I tried to push and at the end I was lucky."

Vlhova benefited from a rare mistake by first-run leader Anna Swenn Larsson.

The Swedish skier extended her lead to a massive 1.17 seconds at the final split. But with her first career win in sight, Swenn Larsson lost her balance a few gates from the finish and fell over. "Of course I was really lucky because Anna, she was really fast," Vlhova said. "If she don't do the mistake,

she wins of course. So, it's a different victory but it's still victory."

Switzerland's Wendy Holdener was 0.24 seconds behind Vlhova in second for her 24th career podium result in slalom without winning a race, a World Cup record.

Katharina Truppe of Austria finished third, trailing by 0.89.

The result extended the three-year winning streak of Shiffrin and Vlhova in World Cup slaloms.

The American six-time discipline globe winner and her Slovakian rival combined have won the last 26 slaloms, with Shiffrin racking up 19 wins and Vlhova seven.

Swenn Larsson's former teammate Frida Hansdotter remained the last skier other than Shiffrin or Vlhova to win a World Cup slalom, in Flachau in January 2017. Hansdotter added the Olympic title in 2018 before retiring last season.

Shiffrin remained in the lead of the overall World Cup, 113 points ahead of Italy's Federica Brignone. Vlhova trails by 154 points in third.

Brignone, who sporadically competes in slaloms, straddled a gate in her final run and failed to score points. The women's World Cup continues with two downhills and an Alpine combined event in Crans Montana, Switzerland, next week. □



Kyle Edmund, of Britain, reacts after defeating Andreas Seppi, of Italy, in the finals of the New York Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Uniondale, N.Y.

Associated Press

Edmund beats Seppi to win title at New York Open

By BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — First, there was a five-match losing streak, and later things got even worse for Kyle Edmund.

He dropped seven straight matches during a difficult 2019 that sent him tumbling down the rankings, just a year after he enjoyed his greatest success in tennis. That's what made Edmund appreciate his second ATP title even more.

He won it Sunday, wearing down Andreas Seppi for a 7-5, 6-1 victory at the New York Open.

"The reasons you get to right now and the trophy here and what makes it nice is because you have to experience all those downs and then it makes you realize that just can't take the success for granted," Edmund said.

"You get the success from having the downs because you learn from that, and the low points mentally and the disappointments of losing matches, those help you get to the happy times, the success, the winning the matches."

Edmund won five straight games to take the first set and build a big lead in the second, seizing control with shots that seemed to

get more powerful as the match went on.

The 35-year-old Seppi, 10 years older than Edmund, hung in for a while as balls kept coming back harder than he hit them, but fell short in his bid for a first title since 2012.

Edmund wouldn't even earn his first win on tour until the next year. He eventually worked his way up to No. 14 in the rankings in 2018, when he won his first title and also reached the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Edmund battled a left knee injury that forced him to pull out of three tournaments during his subpar 2019 but had his game back on track this week in Long Island, where the No. 8 seed was stretched to three sets just once.

Neither player had much trouble holding serve in the first set until Edmund suddenly pounced in the final game. His hard, deep shots kept pressure on Seppi and set up a backhand down the line to earn the break and wrap up the set.

Edmund then broke Seppi's next serve en route to a 3-0 lead in the second. Seppi fought off four break points for a shaky hold in the next game, but Edmund simply came right back and

banged three straight aces in an easy hold for a 4-1 lead.

"He's obviously been on the tour a long time, he's experienced, he knows what to do on the court," said Edmund, who wished his father in Britain a happy birthday after the match. "So it's tough, but the way I've been playing I knew I would have opportunities, especially with more forehands, to get into points."

Seppi then left the court to receive treatment and seemed to be slowed a bit by a leg injury, making it even harder to run down Edmund's shots.

He was seeking a fourth career title. With a victory Sunday, his seven years and four months without a title would have been the longest drought to end since Robert Van't Hof went seven years, five months between titles in the 1980s.

The road to a title at the Nassau Memorial Veterans Coliseum opened up even before the tournament began with injury absences for top-25 players Nick Kyrgios and Kei Nishikori. Then No. 1 seed John Isner and No. 2 Milos Raonic lost their opening matches, as did two-time Grand Slam finalist Kevin Anderson, the 2018 tournament champion. □

Insider Q&A: Facebook VP of Messenger discusses privacy

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

At Facebook, Stan Chudnovsky oversees the Messenger chat app that's used by well over 1 billion people each month. He's playing a key role in helping Facebook integrate that app with its other chat tools, WhatsApp and Instagram Direct.

The massive project has already gotten pushback from regulators worried about Facebook's size and power. Government officials also worry about Facebook's plans to extend end-to-end encryption to Messenger. Once that happens, Facebook wouldn't be able to respond to law enforcement subpoenas because it wouldn't have a way to unscramble messages.

Chudnovsky, who moved to the U.S. from Russia in 1994, joined Facebook in 2015. He spoke with The Associated Press recently about his work and views on privacy. Questions and answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What are the biggest roadblocks in bringing end-to-end encryption?

A: It's technologically hard to move from the system that is alive and functioning and has billions of messages being sent every day to where it's done completely differently architecturally. We also need to figure out how to do as much as we can on safety, while being



In this undated image provided by Facebook Stan Chudnovsky, the vice president of Messenger at Facebook, poses for a photo.

the leaders on privacy. We are trying to go through that process slowly and very responsibly while talking to everyone.

Most messages in the U.S., where (Apple's) iMessage is leading, are already end-to-end encrypted. We want to make sure that we get to the point when we lead very strongly and we do as much on safety as we possibly can given the constraints of end-to-end

encryption.

Q: How do you ensure that people are safe when you can't see bad things people are doing?

A: We are going to continue to work very closely with law enforcement on whatever we can provide. We also have connectivity to social networks. Whoever is a bad player on social networks, we will be able to see if those bad players exist on messaging services.

I don't want to go into details on how we are thinking about approaching that stuff. But we're just going to invest heavily in identifying threats earlier.

Q: You can send things in a private message that you can't post on Facebook, right?

A: Definitely. You should be able to send whatever you want to send in a private message.

Q: What if it's illegal or hurting someone?

A: Generally we believe

that conversation between people should be private. We don't make a difference between the conversations that are happening in the living room or on the phone and conversations that are happening in a private chat.

Q: What if you try to sell a gun, despite Facebook's ban?

A: If you're trying to sell a gun, you are probably trying to sell a gun to many people. When someone reports that and someone provides the messages that from the point of that person are illegal, then definitely we will be able to look at that.

Q: What are the biggest things that you have to figure out before interoperability becomes reality?

A: Generally, just a features compatibility in the sense that, if I "like" some message on one app, how does it manifest itself in another? Or will I be able to also call people, not only send messages?

Q: Do you think scrutiny of Facebook will ease any time soon?

A: We have a lot of responsibility. And the criticism, sometimes it's accurate. Sometimes it's not accurate. At the end of the day, what it means if everyone's talking about you positively or negatively or both, is that you're important. We just need to continue to deliver value to people. And as long as we are building products that people like, I think it's going to be fine. □



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Free tax filing has confused many Americans. Here's help.

SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Personal Finance Reporter

The majority of individual taxpayers in the U.S. are eligible to file their taxes online for free, yet many may be unaware or confused by how to do so.

The tax industry and the IRS have played a part in the problem. Together they run the IRS Free File system, which about 70% of taxpayers are eligible for but only a sliver use. It was designed to help low- and middle-income taxpayers find a reliable program to file at no cost and boost online filings. However, the IRS has long faced criticism for its failure to promote and support the program. And recent media reports uncovered efforts by the tax software preparation industry to misguide users of Free File and nudge them into paid products.

Subsequently, improvements have been made and Free File should be easier to use in 2020. But, with tax season getting into full gear, users should know the details of the service and the alternatives.

WHAT IS FREE FILE?

The IRS Free File program allows taxpayers whose adjusted gross income is \$69,000 or less to file for free. Tax software prep companies administer Free File via a partnership with the IRS. This year, taxpayers have their choice of 10 providers, including well-known names such as TurboTax, H&R Block and TaxSlayer.

Free File has been available since 2003; but while roughly 70% of taxpayers are eligible, only about 2% use the program, according to the National Taxpayer Advocate's Office.

WHY THE LIMITED APPEAL? Critics say the program is confusing and difficult to use. The process taxpayers must follow is "obscure and complex," according to a report released earlier this month by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

The program is also poorly promoted. The IRS has not allocated any money to advertise Free File since

2014, although the agency does promote it on its website, social media and in press releases. For their part, some companies say they promote the program. TurboTax said increased advertising and other efforts boosted Free File usage last year.

The Taxpayer Advocate, which represents the taxpayer's voice within the IRS, has been critical of the IRS' management of the program, saying it fails "to promote the best interest of taxpayers," noting the low usage and confusion among taxpayers.

Additionally, critics say taxpayers may find themselves confused between the Free File system and the free or low-cost versions offered by the tax prep companies themselves.

Last year, the nonprofit news organization ProPublica found that some of the companies added code to their websites that hid their Free File programs from search engines and diverted users to paid products. Outside investigations confirmed that at least five companies did have coding that prevented users from getting to the proper page. The companies cited in the reports have denied any wrongdoing.

While the companies' actions didn't violate their agreement with the IRS, the agency has barred the companies from hiding their free products, among other changes to their agreement.

The IRS and the Free File Alliance, a coalition of tax prep companies that work in the partnership, say they are committed to making future improvements to the program.

The cost to file online with a tax software preparation company varies depending on the complexity of someone's tax situation, if they are filing state returns as well, or if they need professional assistance. It can range from around \$30 to well over \$100.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

First and foremost, know this: The only way to access Free File is through the IRS

website at IRS.gov/freefile. Changes have been made to the internet search rules but for good reason. Last year, an estimated 14 million people who were eligible for Free File ended up paying to have their taxes prepared and filed, according to the Treasury Inspector General's report. By going to the IRS site, taxpayers can browse all the offers or use a tool to help them find the right product. Each program partner has different eligibility standards, but the IRS assures taxpayers that if their adjusted gross income was \$69,000 or less, they will find at least one free product to use.

Taxpayers should not be charged any fees if they qualify, other than potential state tax preparation fees. Some programs offer free state filing as well. Free File partner company websites are also prohibited from pitching and selling additional products to users, including offers of refund anticipation loans, checks or other such products.

However, not everyone



This Feb. 13, 2019, file photo shows multiple forms printed from the Internal Revenue Service web page that are used for 2018 U.S. federal tax returns in Zelienople, Pa.

Associated Press

qualifies for Free File. So, if you've input all your information and find you do not meet the criteria, you may be pointed toward a paid service to complete your taxes.

Not sure if you've got the real deal? The IRS also now requires that each company name their Free File service the same way. It should appear as IRS Free File Program delivered by (Company Name).

DO I HAVE TO USE IT?

There are plenty of other alternatives for filing at no

cost.

Taxpayers whose income is over \$69,000 can use the Free Fillable Forms, which is an electronic version of IRS paper forms. These forms do the math for the taxpayer, but there are limited directions so the user must be comfortable completing their taxes independently. Paper forms, while not a popular option, are completely free as well.

The tax software providers offer their own options and millions of people use these with success. □

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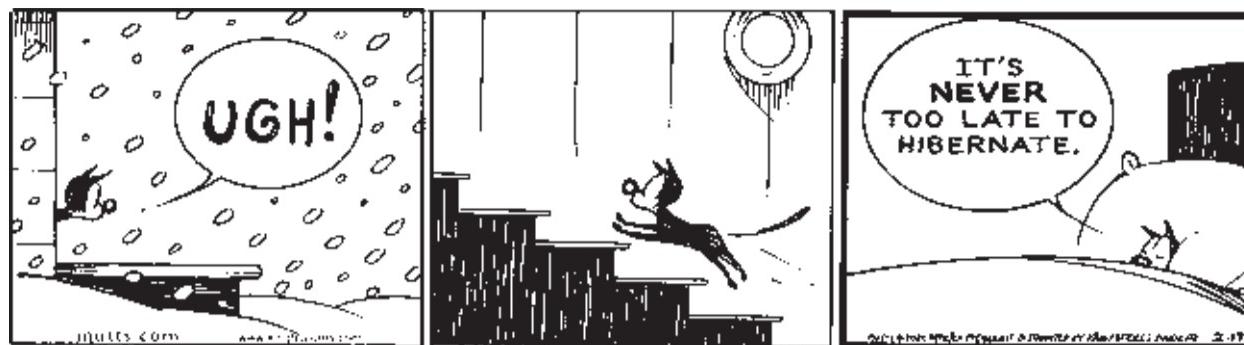
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Conceptis Sudoku

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2		5		
6	3	7	1	
8		2	6	5
7			1	
2	6	8	9	
1		6	7	2
7	9	4	7	4
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6 Chix



Blondie

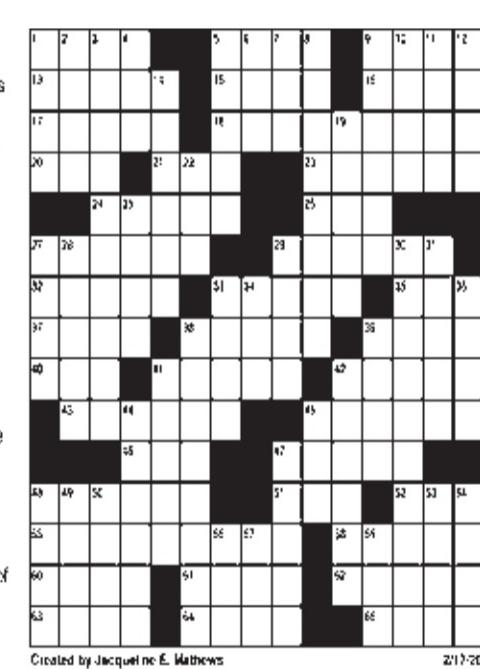


Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

2	8	1	7	9	5	3	6	4
7	6	9	4	3	2	8	5	1
4	5	3	1	6	8	9	7	2
5	3	7	9	8	4	2	1	6
9	1	4	2	7	6	5	3	8
6	2	8	3	5	1	7	4	9
1	7	5	6	2	9	4	8	3
3	9	6	8	4	7	1	2	5
8	4	2	5	1	3	6	9	7

Saturday's puzzle answer



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 2/17/20

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

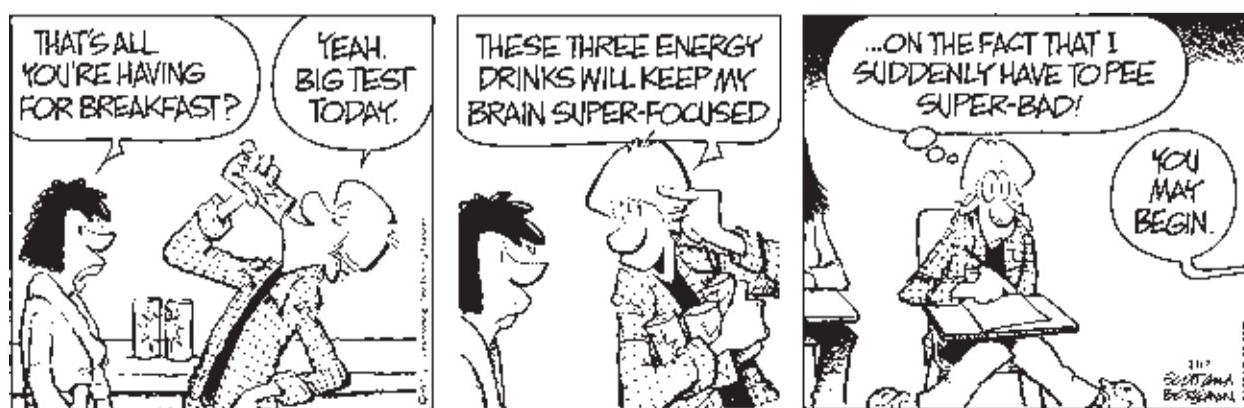
END	ADAPT	HOLE
GEER	BELIE	AXES
GALA	UNSER	REAP
RAINSTORM	ANDY	
DOES	ITS	
RODEOS	LONESOME	
ADORN	HUMAN	PAD
BINS	PERIL	MINI
BUN	MERIT	PANIC
IMAGINED	REPEAT	
LAD	VEEP	
ECHO	ASSISTING	
BLOW	NOISE	NELL
BONE	TALON	GEES
SPED	SPORT	RED

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Baby Blues



Zits



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42. Dangerous 50. Hook and
critters
43. Poem 51. Sink
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19 weeks remain
Studio wk 7/8
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27/29 weeks remain

Divi Links Golf

1 BR WK 8/9
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1 BR wk 12/13

ground Floor
With 33/34 weeks remain

Birdie 10 \$9,5 K each**Divi Village**

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21 weeks remain
2 sd Floor 18 weeks remain

Dutch Village

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15 weeks remain each
2 BR WK 7 \$18 K
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Questions complicate efforts to contain new virus from China

By LAURAN NEERGAARD

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reports one day suggest the respiratory outbreak in China might be slowing, the next brings word of thousands more cases. Even the experts have whiplash in trying to determine if the epidemic is getting worse, or if a backlog of the sick is finally getting counted.

Continuing questions about the new virus are complicating health authorities' efforts to curtail its spread around the world. And the United States is taking the first steps to check that cases masquerading as the flu won't be missed, another safeguard on top of travel restrictions and quarantines.

Here's what you should know about the illness:

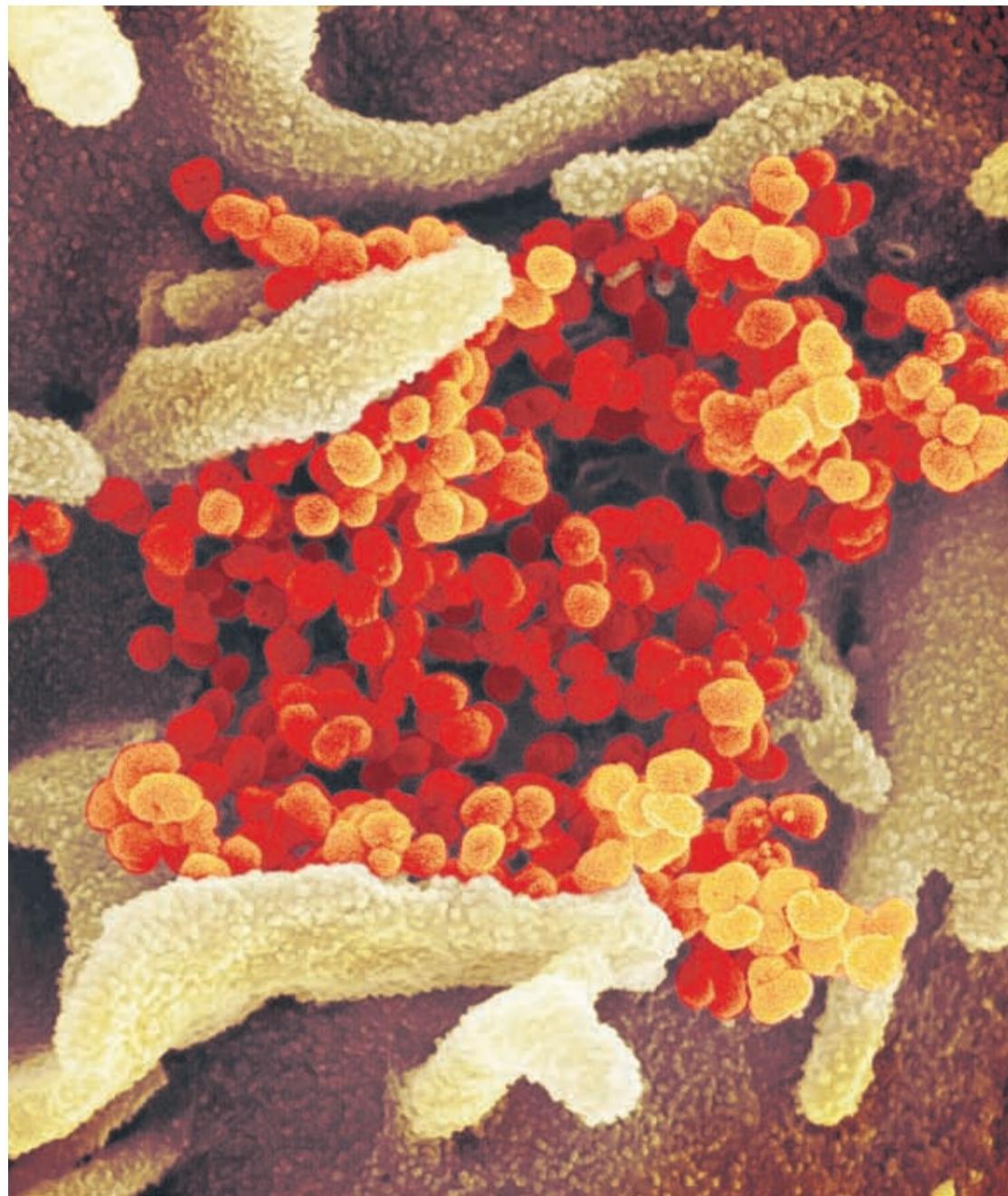
WHAT IS THE NEW VIRUS?

It's a never-before-seen type of coronavirus, a large family of viruses that affect both animals and people. Some types cause the common cold. But two other types have caused severe disease outbreaks before: SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, in late 2002, and MERS, or Middle East respiratory syndrome, which first appeared in 2012.

The World Health Organization officially named the new illness COVID-19, reflecting that it's a new coronavirus that emerged late last year. Common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. While serious cases can turn into pneumonia, most patients appear to have a fairly mild illness.

HOW FAST IS THE OUTBREAK GROWING?

There's some confusion about that. China's tally reached more than 66,000 cases Saturday, a huge increase from earlier in



This image provided by The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Associated Press

the week. Why? Chinese health authorities say they changed how they are counting. Instead of waiting for a virus test to confirm someone's diagnosis — there's a huge testing backlog — they're now counting patients on the basis of their symptoms and lung X-rays.

The WHO isn't sure that's a good idea, and wants to make sure people with flu or some other respiratory infection aren't getting caught in the mix.

Elsewhere, fewer than 600 cases have been reported outside of China — in other parts of Asia, Europe, the U.S. and Canada. The first case in Africa was reported Friday, in Egypt. Most involved travelers from China and people who came into close contact with them.

IS QUARANTINE WORKING?

China has put 60 million people in its hardest-hit cities under lockdown, an unprecedented response. Without a good count of how many people are sick, and when they got sick, it's hard to tell if it's working.

That's different from typical quarantine measures, which try to target people who may be at risk — those who were in China's hot zone or who came into contact with another patient anywhere else in the world. That's a way to buy time for health authorities

to prepare if the virus starts to spread more widely.

But how to quarantine large numbers of people is a difficult question. The Diamond Princess cruise ship, which has the largest cluster of infections outside China, was quarantined in Japan with more than 3,500 passengers and crew. Experts have questioned if the close quarters have contributed to the spread. U.S. officials said Saturday it would evacuate its citizens on board and bring them to quarantine stations on Air Force bases in California and Texas.

In the U.S., about 600 people evacuated from hard-hit Hubei province in central China are still in quarantine at several military bases, apart from other people on the base but with some room to roam. For 14 days — what sci-

tists believe to be the incubation period — they are checked for symptoms and tested if they show any.

As of Saturday, there were 15 cases in the U.S., including three of the evacuees.

COULD THE VIRUS BE SPREADING SILENTLY IN OTHER PLACES?

In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is starting a new effort to spot if that happens — by adding coronavirus testing to the network that normally tracks influenza. When a patient sample tests negative for flu, lab workers next will check it for the new virus.

The extra tests will start in public health laboratories in five cities: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago and New York. But the surveillance will be expanded around the country in the coming weeks, said CDC's Dr. Nancy Messonnier.

HOW DOES INFECTION SPREAD?

Like typical respiratory viruses, it spreads mostly through droplets from coughs and sneezes. What about surfaces like door knobs touched by that person blowing his nose? If the next person touches their own mouth, nose or eyes, infection is possible, like with the flu, but specialists don't think the virus can survive on surfaces for very long. Regular hand washing is a good way to avoid getting sick from any virus.

WHAT ABOUT TREATMENTS AND VACCINES?

The hunt is on for both. Currently, people who are seriously ill get standard pneumonia care including fluids and oxygen. In China, scientists are testing some medicines developed for other viruses to see if they might tamp down this one. Several research groups are on the trail of possible vaccines, and one being developed by the U.S. National Institutes of Health might begin first-step safety tests in people as early as spring. But specialists stress it would take far longer — best case scenario a year — to ready a vaccine for widespread use. □

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Writer AE Hotchner, friend to Hemingway, Newman, dead at 102

By HILLEL ITALIE Associated Press National Writer

A.E. Hotchner, a well-traveled author, playwright and gadabout whose street smarts and famous pals led to a loving, but litigated memoir of Ernest Hemingway, business adventures with Paul Newman and a book about his Depression-era childhood that became a Steven Soderbergh film, died Saturday at age 102.

He died at his home in Westport, Connecticut, according to his son, Timothy Hotchner, who did not immediately know the cause of death.

A. E. Hotchner, known to friends as "Ed" or "Hotch," was an impish St. Louis native and ex-marbles champ who read, wrote and hustled himself out of poverty and went on to publish more than a dozen books, befriend countless celebrities and see his play, "The White House," performed at the real White House for President Bill Clinton.

He was a natural fit for Elaine's, the former Manhattan nightspot for the famous and the near-famous, and contributed the text for "Everyone Comes to Elaine's," an illustrated history. Hotchner's other works included the novel "The Man Who Lived at the Ritz," bestselling biographies of Doris Day and Sophia Loren, and a musical, "Let 'Em Rot!" co-written with Cy Coleman.

In his 90s, he completed an upbeat book of essays on aging, "O.J. in the Morning, G&T at Night." When he was 100, he wrote the detective novel "The Amazing Adventures of Aaron Broom." At 101, he adapted Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" for the stage.

He was a memorable storyteller — sometimes too memorable. Hotchner wrote an article about Elaine's for Vanity Fair that included an anecdote about director Roman Polanski making advances on a woman on the way to the funeral of his wife, Sharon Tate, who was murdered in 1969 by Charles Manson's followers. Polanski sued



FILE - In this Jan. 22, 2019, file photo, Ernest Hemingway's close friend and biographer, A.E. Hotchner, talks about his friendship with Hemingway at his home in Westport, Conn.

Associated Press

the magazine's publisher, Condé Nast, for libel and in 2005 was awarded some \$87,000, plus court costs, by a jury in London.

The son of a furrier who went broke during the Depression, Aaron Edward Hotchner was born in 1917 in St. Louis, a city he would recall with deep affection despite times so dire he claimed to have eaten paper to fight hunger. Hotchner wrote about his youth in "King of the Hill," published in 1972 and adapted 20 years later into a Soderbergh film of the same name.

Clever and determined, Hotchner managed a scholarship to Washington University, where he and Tennessee Williams both worked on the school's student magazine. Hotchner then joined the Air Force, a time he recalled good-naturedly in the memoir "The Day I Fired Alan Ladd, and Other World War II Adventures." After the war, Hotch-

ner settled in New York and became an editor at Cosmopolitan, and worked on literary fiction.

One submission was J.D. Salinger's "Needle On a Scratchy Phonograph Record," a World War II story the author gave to Hotchner under the condition that nothing — not a comma — be altered. Hotchner, who had been friendly with Salinger, came through — almost. The actual story was printed intact, but Cosmopolitan changed the title to "Blue Melody."

Salinger never spoke to Hotchner again.

Around the same time, however, Hotchner lucked his way into literary history. Cosmopolitan wanted Hemingway to write an article about "The Future of Literature" and sent Hotchner to Cuba to track him down. So began a friendship that lasted until Hemingway's suicide, in 1961. From Spain to Idaho, they hunted,

drank and attended bullfights. They lived through Hemingway's inspiring highs and fatal lows, chronicled by Hotchner in "Papa Hemingway," which came out in 1966 and has been translated into more than 25 languages.

But the book has a troubled history. Hemingway's widow, Mary Hemingway, sued unsuccessfully to stop publication, alleging that Hotchner had violated the privacy of her husband and herself. She was reportedly upset that he contradicted her contention that her husband had only accidentally shot himself. Critics, meanwhile, doubted the accuracy of the many long dialogues between Hotchner and Hemingway. "Once you learn the rhythms of speech of a person, the actual words resonate with you," Hotchner explained during a 2005 interview with The Associated Press. "I can hear him

right now: 'How do you like it now, gentlemen?' Things he said. You're sort of born with that I guess, a kind of tape that runs through your head."

Their relationship was also professional. Hotchner often served as his agent, helped edit his bullfighting book "The Dangerous Summer" and helped come up with the title for the posthumous release of Hemingway's memoir about Paris, "A Moveable Feast." In the 1950s and early '60s, he adapted several Hemingway stories for television, including "The Battler," which led to his first meeting with Newman.

James Dean had agreed to star as the titular faded ex-boxer, but Newman took the role after Dean died in a car crash. Newman and Hotchner became friends, pranksters, fishing buddies, neighbors and business partners. When the actor wanted to sell his homemade salad dressing at some local shops, he called on "Hotch" to help out.

"That was just a joke," Hotchner told the AP in 2005. "It was something on the fly. Let's put up \$40,000 and we'll be businessmen."

Their caper turned into the multimillion-dollar Newman's Own nonprofit empire of salad dressing, popcorn, lemonade and assorted recipes; all proceeds went to charity, notably the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp for kids with life-threatening illnesses.

After Newman's death in 2008, Hotchner wrote about his friend in "Paul and Me." Other projects in recent years included a collection of letters between himself and Hemingway and a reissue of his Hemingway memoir. In 2013, he was among the commentators seen in Shane Salerno's documentary about Salinger.

Hotchner was married three times, most recently to actress Virginia Kiser, and was the father of three children. He had numerous animals over the years, including peacocks, pedigreed chickens, and an African parrot named Ernie. □

'Sonic' speeds to \$57M debut; 'Parasite' sees big Oscar bump



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Sonic, voiced by Ben Schwartz, in a scene from "Sonic the Hedgehog." (Paramount Pictures/Sega of America via AP)

By JAKE COYLE AP Film NEW YORK (AP) — The Writer redesigned "Sonic" the

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SUN 2:05 | 4:20 | 6:35 | 8:50

MON-FRI 5:00 | 7:20
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Hedgehog" showed plenty of teeth at the box office, speeding to a \$57 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday, while "Parasite" saw one of the largest post-Oscars bumps in years following its best picture win.

Paramount Pictures' "Sonic the Hedgehog" came in well above expectations, especially for a movie that just months ago was a laughing stock. After its first trailer was greeted with ridicule on social media last year, "Sonic" was postponed three months to give its title character a design overhaul — including fixing Sonic's eerily human teeth.

The makeover worked and audiences responded by making "Sonic the Hedgehog" the weekend's top film and the highest-grossing opening for a video game adaptation, not accounting for inflation. For Paramount, it's a welcome success following misfires such as "Gemini Man" and "Terminator: Dark Fate." The studio estimates "Sonic" will gross \$68 million over the four-day Presidents Day holiday weekend.

"If you don't listen to your customer, and this goes for any business, then you're going to fail," said Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Paramount. "We retooled Sonic in a way that was obviously very satisfying for the fans and they were

very forgiving. Now that they've seen the movie, they love the movie. It all worked out."

The Sega video game adaptation, directed by Jeff Fowler, drew decent reviews (63% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and an A CinemaScore from moviegoers. The \$87 million production co-stars Jim Carrey as Dr. Robotnik with Ben Schwartz supplying Sonic's voice.

Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite" had its biggest weekend in its 19th week of release. Neon put "Parasite" into its widest release yet (2,001 theaters) following its historic win at the Oscars. ("Parasite" was the first non-English-language film to win best picture in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards.) And despite the film already being available for weeks on digital platforms and on DVD, its \$5.5 million weekend is the largest Oscars bump for a best-picture winner since "Gladiator" in 2001.

Last week's opening of "Birds of Prey" followed up its limp debut by sliding to second with \$17.1 million. Following its disappointing opening, some theaters retitled the movie "Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey," instead of "Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)." It was a busy weekend in theaters, with a handful of other new releases — "The Photograph," "Fantasy Is-

land," "Downhill" — seeking to capitalize on both Valentine's Day on Friday and Presidents Day on Monday. "Fantasy Island," the Blumhouse horror remake of the '70s TV show, fared the best, collecting \$12.4 million in ticket sales despite terrible reviews. Sony Pictures handled the release of the low-budget, PG-13 film, which earned just a 9% fresh score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Universal Pictures' "The Photograph," a romance starring Issa Rae and Lakeith Stanfield and produced by Will Packer ("Girls Trip," "Ride Along"), opened with \$12.2 million. The film, written and directed by Stella Meghie, cost \$15 million to make.

"Downhill," from Disney's Fox Searchlight Pictures, debuted with \$4.7 million, a modest start for a film starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell. A remake of the acclaimed Swedish film "Force Majeure" by Ruben Östlund, "Downhill" didn't do great with critics but fared even worse with audiences. They gave it a D CinemaScore.

Neon followed up its "Parasite" Oscar win with the Valentine's Day release of "Portrait of a Lady on Fire," one of 2019's most acclaimed films. Following a one-week qualifying run in December, Celine Sciamma's French period romance opened in 22 theaters with a strong per-theater average of about \$20,000. □

Elton John, sick with pneumonia, cuts New Zealand show short

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — An emotional Elton John had to cut short a performance in New Zealand on Sunday after he lost his voice due to walking pneumonia and had to be assisted off stage.

John reached out to his fans on Instagram on Sunday, apologizing for ending his show at Auckland's Mt Smart Stadium early.

"I want to thank everyone who attended tonight's gig in Auckland. I was diagnosed with walking pneumonia earlier today, but I was determined to

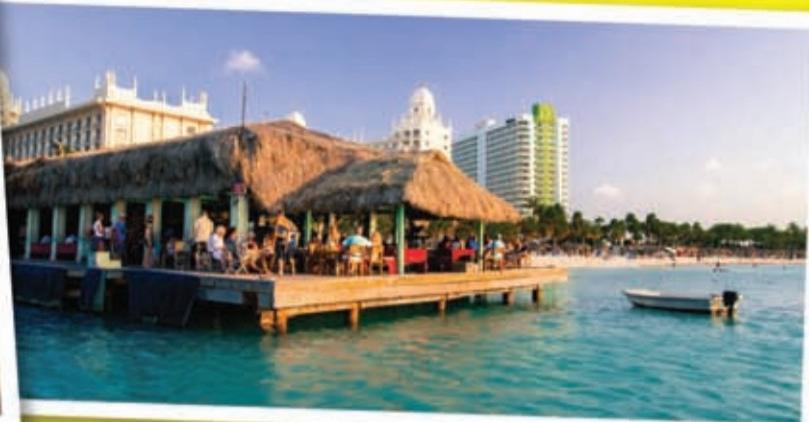
give you the best show humanly possible," he wrote. "I played and sang my heart out, until my voice could sing no more. I'm disappointed, deeply upset and sorry. I gave it all I had. Thank-you so much for your extraordinary support and all the love you showed me during tonight's performance. I am eternally grateful. Love, Elton xx"

Video clips posted online by fans who were at the performance showed John breaking down in tears as he told the cheering crowd that he could not go on

any longer. The New Zealand Herald reported that John, 72, told his fans earlier that he had walking pneumonia and his voice was shot, but that he didn't want to miss the show. At one point, after performing "Someone Saved My Life Tonight," John slumped on his stool and required medical attention, the newspaper reported. But John recovered and continued to play. Later, as he attempted to sing "Daniel," he realized he had no voice left and was escorted off stage. □

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'Parasite' shines light on South Korean basement dwellers

By JUWON PARK

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Kim Da-hye, a 29-year-old South Korean, said that moving into a semi-basement apartment was her least-preferred option when she was looking for a new place to live.

But after a rigorous search and a close examination of her finances, she was forced to settle for a "banjiha," the Korean word for a cramped basement flat. South Korean director Bong Joon-ho's Oscar-winning film "Parasite" has brought banjiha dwellers like Kim to worldwide attention, thanks to its depiction of two families — one living in a semi-basement apart-

ment and the other in an airy mansion — and the differences in their social status.

In 2015, around 1.9% of South Koreans lived in semi-basement apartments, according to data from Statistics Korea. It's an affordable

choice for urban dwellers in Seoul, one of the most expensive cities in Asia. The apartments, which are often cramped and sometimes squalid, generally cost between \$210 and \$500 a month with a hefty deposit.

Kim, who moved into her \$211-a-month banjiha apartment after leaving her job to take care of her mother, is no fan of her current accommodations, which flood during the rainy season.

"During one summer, I left the house with the window open," she said. "When I came back, there was water all over and the walls were wet."

She says that when she dries her laundry, "the walls get damp and my laundry smells."

Prior to moving in, she was very concerned about the apartment's toilet, which sits much higher than the floor in order to prevent



Kim Da-hye, a 29-year-old South Korean, talks about her semi-basement apartment in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, Feb. 15, 2020.

Associated Press

flooding. "My bathroom has stairs just like that place," Kim said, referring to the basement toilet in the film that spews out filthy sludge during a flood that destroys the house.

"I could slip while climbing the stairs," Kim said, laugh-

the window, causing the walls to mold.

"It's easy to see inside from outside and vice versa," Kim said, adding that her window also invites dust from cars and motorcycles on the street.

She said she has mixed feelings about the film despite sharing her name — Da-hye — with the daughter of the affluent family.

"At the start of the movie when an image flashed of a drunkard who was peeing on the street, I didn't find it funny," she said. "I felt a bit bitter because (the movie) had moments I could totally relate to. I had mixed feelings because it didn't feel like someone else's story."

"I thought it really resembled reality," Kim said. "(The father in the movie) wanted to climb higher but ended up going lower than where he was before. That's similar to how I feel about my future." □

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